

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

July 20, 2004

The recent wildfires in northern Los Angeles County point up the need for better communication with County residents in times of danger or disaster to share up-to-the-minute information about evacuation orders, traffic problems, unusual hazards, and similar news.

In 1972, the Board of Supervisors established the Office of Emergency Management within the Chief Administrative Office, with broad responsibilities for organizing and directing the preparedness efforts of the County's Emergency Management Organization, comprising an integrated network of public and private "first responders," and serving as the day-to-day Los Angeles County Operational Area coordinator for the entire geographic area of the County.

The Office of Emergency Management maintains an informative Web page within the CAO website at <http://lacoa.org/oem.shtml>, but it currently offers no updated specific information to assist affected residents in times of disaster.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, the Department of Public Works, and any other member agencies of the County's emergency organization as helpful or necessary and report back in 45 days with

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recommendations for creating a website that could be activated during emergencies for updated practical news – which might include dates, times, locations of disaster sites, precautionary or evacuation advice, and related communications to inform and assist County residents in times of disaster or emergency.

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